

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly cancel claim 4 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Kindly amend claim 1 and add new claims 6 and 7 as follows. A detailed listing of all claims is as follows.

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Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A pickup device of an apparatus for recording or reproducing information, by irradiation of a light beam, to and from a multi-layered recording medium having a plurality of recording layers laminated through spacer layers, the device comprising:

an illumination optical system including an objective lens for focusing a light beam onto any of said recording layers of said multi-layered recording medium; and

a detecting optical system including a photodetector for receiving and photoelectrically converting reflection light from said recording layer of said multi-layered recording medium through said objective lens; wherein said photodetector has a normalized detector size ( $B/\beta^2$ ) of a size of  $10 \mu\text{m}^2$  to  $50 \mu\text{m}^2$ , and

wherein the normalized detector size ( $B/\beta^2$ ) is given by an equation of

$$B/\beta^2 = L^2 / (f_c/f_{OB})^2$$

wherein L denotes a size of one side of the photodetector,  $f_c$  denotes a focal distance of the detecting optical system and  $f_{OB}$  denotes a focal distance of the objective lens,

wherein said objective lens has a numerical aperture of 0.85 or greater.

Claims 2-5 (Cancelled)

C.1  
Claim 6 (New): A pickup device according to claim 1, wherein said size L of the photodetector is given by an equation,  $x = S/L$  where x is substantially equal to 0.5 and S denotes a light spot size formed on said photodetector.

Claim 7 (New): A pickup device according to claim 1, further comprising a detecting circuit connected to said photodetector, when the photodetector has a normalized detector size of  $50 \mu\text{m}^2$  or lower said detecting circuit outputs signals with 3% or lower of a reproduced signal distortion. hwp?

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